

REMARKS

Claims 33 through 55 and 57 through 65 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 - 32 were previously canceled and claim 56 is canceled by the present amendment. Claims 33 through 52, 57, 64 and 65 are withdrawn from consideration.

Section 3 of the Office Action indicates that claims 57 and 63 are withdrawn from consideration because the recital of these claims appeared to be inconsistent with the depiction of species "h". Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of claim 57. However, Applicants amended claim 63 so that its recital is not inconsistent with the depiction of species "h". As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner re-categorize claim 63 as being currently amended rather than withdrawn.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 53 through 56 and 58 through 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants amended claim 53 so that the normal incidence mirror has a proper nexus with respect to the object plane and the image plane, and so that the field forming optical component has a proper nexus with respect to the object plane, the image plane and the normal incidence mirror. Also, Applicants amended claim 58 so that the second normal incidence mirror has a proper nexus with respect to the object plane, the image plane, the first normal incidence mirror and the field forming optical component. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejection are respectfully solicited.

In sections 6 -9 of the Office Action, claims 53 through 55 and 58 through 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by one or more of the following patents:

- (a) US 4,294,538 to Ban;
- (b) US 5,439,781 to MacDowell et al.;
- (c) US 5,512,759 to Sweatt; and
- (d) US 6,198,793 to Schultz et al.

Additionally, in section 10 of the Office Action, claims 53 through 56 and 58 through 62 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by International Patent Publication WO99/57732 (hereinafter "the '732 publication"). Thus, claim 56 is rejected only on the basis of the '732 publication.

The rejected claims include one independent claim, namely claim 53. Applicants amended claim 53 to include a recital of the subject matter that was previously in claim 56. More specifically, claim 53 now

recites a field forming optical component includes a grazing incidence mirror having negative optical power.

The '732 publication lists two inventors, namely Schultz and Wangler, both of whom are also inventors in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that the '732 patent does not suggest, much less expressly describe, a field forming optical component includes a grazing incidence mirror having negative optical power, as recited in claim 53. As such, the '732 publication does not anticipate claim 53.

Claims 54, 55 and 58 through 62 depend from claim 53, and are therefore also not anticipated by the '732 publication.

Claim 57 is canceled. The rejection is therefore moot with respect to claim 57.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102 rejections of claims 53 through 55 and 58 through 62.

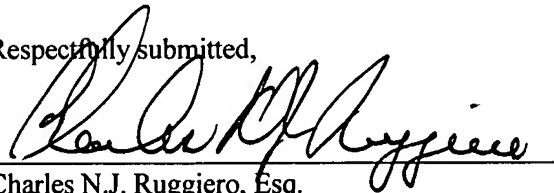
Section 11 of the Office Action indicates that two information disclosure statements previously filed by Applicants included several oversights. Applicants apologize for the oversights and are resubmitting the information disclosure statements.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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